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SUBJECT: BULGARIA TO SUPPORT HUNGARY ON MAINTAINING GMO BAN

REF: SECSTATE 19266

Eolina Milova, head of the EU Integration Department at the Environment Ministry, informed us that Bulgaria will support Hungary's decision to impose a moratorium on MON810 at the February 20 EU Environmental Council. The GOB's position was suggested by the Environment Minister--against the recommendation of experts at the Ministry--and later approved by the Council of Ministers, according to other Ministry contacts. Both the Environment and Agricultural Ministers, members of the mainly ethnic-Turkish Movement for Rights and Freedom Party, remain strongly opposed to GMO's, despite persistent Embassy work to turn them around.
BEYRLE